



The Camelot

Monthly Newsletter No. 144

February Two 2022-2023



Page One printed for circulation—other pages sent by email to all parents/carers

Thank you for your participation in our consultation

Thank you for your attendance at meetings; your questions communicated in these meetings and to the dedicated email governor.services@southwark.gov.uk.

We remind you questionnaires were attached to letters to parents/carers. Your responses to these questionnaire can be left in the school office before forwarding these to the Local Authority by the end of this week.

On page 3—4 overleaf please see a collation of the first two pages of answers to questions raised by parents and carers across the meetings attended on Thursday 23rd February.

Your support is appreciated both to school leaders who are working to secure the future for all the children at this time as well as to the pupils, parents/carers of Cobourg School as they engage in the consultation process that has started across both schools.

The important school dates for your attention

1. **Friday 3rd March**—World Book Day (+ Yr 1 trip to Transport Museum—Yr 1 will celebrate World Book Day on Monday 6th March)

Parents/Carers are invited to attend the Camelot School World Book Day Parade from 8.50 a.m. on Friday in the Rio Hall. Please join us to celebrate the children (& staff!) costumes. The parade will finish by 9.15 a.m.

2. **Thursday 9th March**—Year 4 & 5 trip to London Southbank
3. **Friday 17th March**—Year 6 trip to London Broadgate Centre
4. **Teacher Strike Action Dates—Thursday 2nd March, Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March**—Nursery class will be closed but all other year groups open.

We ask parents/carers make plans to collect children at 3.00 p.m. on strike action dates

5. **Friday 31st March**—last day of Spring Term—early closing from 12.00 noon
6. **Monday 3rd to Thursday 6th April**—Spring CHAMPS
7. **Monday 17th April**—Summer Term restarts
8. **Bank Holidays in May 2023**—Monday 1st May & Monday 8th May - no school



The Camelot Spring CHAMPS aspiration:

Four days of Free Fun and Food for all Camelot pupils in Year 2 to Year 6
Monday 3rd April to Thursday 6th April

At Camelot School.. and in local swimming pools, around local parks, in cinemas and theatres, on buses and on trips around our local area... and all for free!

Places are limited but we are now opening up booking for all Year 2 to Year 6 pupils. We have extended the deadline to Monday 6th March to hear from all interested parents/carers. Please don't miss out.

Apply via the school office or by texting the CHAMPS mobile number on 07931616456

Our additional school provision is an area of celebration for the school.

- Be it our Art Club led by Miss Shelley and Miss Lynn
- Be it the fact that we are currently top of the table in the Saturday Football League
- Be it our representations at the London Games 2023



SCHOOL	P	W	D	L	Pts
Camelot	5	4	0	1	8
Crown Lane	7	4	0	3	8
Lyndhurst	5	3	0	2	6
Sunnyhill	5	3	0	2	6
Wyvil	4	3	0	1	6
Dunraven	4	2	0	2	4
Judith Kerr	5	2	0	3	4
St. Luke's	5	2	0	3	4
Glenbrook	4	1	0	3	2
Sudbourne	4	0	0	4	0

The London Games 2023

Tuesday 21st March

Venue: Jack Carter Pavilion, Oakfield Playing Fields Fairlop, Fenpiece Road, Ilford, IG6 2JL

Representing the school:

Anaiah; Destiny; Fatima; Leila; Jennifer; Azjanai; Sally; Neriah; Chelsea

School Subject Focus. No.1 Science



The National Curriculum for Science expects “a high-quality science education provides the foundations for understanding the world through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics. Science has changed our lives and is vital to the world’s future prosperity, and all pupils should be taught essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science.

Through building up a body of key foundational knowledge and concepts, pupils should be encouraged to recognise the power of rational explanation and develop a sense of excitement and curiosity about natural phenomena. They should be encouraged to understand how science can be used to explain what is occurring, predict how things will behave, and analyse causes.”

Our Science lead teacher reviews Science provision across the school and her recent observations across the school reports the following:

- Children talked enthusiastically about their learning in Science. They particularly enjoyed sharing the experiments they have conducted in their Science lessons, showing their observations, recorded in tables and diagrams and explaining what they had learned from these experiences. Some children were able to confidently explain how they ensured they conducted a fair test and why this is important.
- Teachers have embraced the Developing Experts curriculum and children spoke of how much they have enjoyed the lessons this term. When children showed their books, nearly all classes have used the provided knowledge organisers to support children's learning.
- Books show evidence of a range of scientific skills being taught and developed. In Key Stage 1, children explain the importance of accurately labelling diagrams. Children in Lower Key Stage 1 were able to confidently use scientific vocabulary to explain their learning and in Upper Key Stage 2 children were beginning to understand the importance of changing one element of an experiment at a time to ensure their results are valid.

Our science lead teacher shared two exceptional quotes from our children that demonstrate how much they are enjoying their Science lessons:

- *"We get to learn adult science words and other schools don't get to do that so we're really lucky."*
- *"I like Science because we get to learn loads of different things and that will help me when I go to secondary school because I'll be able to learn even more."*

Answers provided by Southwark representatives to questions asked from meetings across Thursday 23rd February 2023

Answers provided below for the first tranche of questions answered to this point on 24.02.23

Additional questions from meetings later on across the school day will be shared next week in the full Q&A document. In addition, all feedback received from the questionnaires will be incorporated in future documents linked to this first stage of consultation.

1. Where are the two schools?

Cobourg Primary School is situated just off the Old Kent Road adjacent to Burgess Park (SE5 0JD) It is served by several bus routes: 78, 21, 53, 172, 453, 363, 63, 415.

Camelot Primary School (SE15 1QP) is situated near the junction of Commercial Road, Bird in Bush Rd and the Old Kent Road. It is a 17 minute walk between the two schools: 78, 21, 53, 172, 453.

2. What would the amalgamated school's name be?

We are in a period of consultation about combining the two schools onto one site. It would seem appropriate for a new combined school to have a new name – so everyone feels they are starting new together. There are no current plans to start consulting on a new name but if the proposal to amalgamation is agreed, that discussion would be open to both school communities.

3. How many pupils can be accommodated at both schools?

The maximum capacity of Cobourg Primary School is 446 (420 Yr R – Yr 6 + 26 Nursery pupils)

The maximum capacity of Camelot Primary School 656 (630 Yr R – Yr 6 + 26 Nursery pupils)

4. Are you sure that all the children can fit into the new school?

All pupils at both schools will continue to have a place at the combined school.

Currently there are 226, including Nursery, at Cobourg Primary School. The outside play areas are approximately 2500 sq m divided into 3 play zones.

Currently there are 380 including Nursery at Camelot Primary School. The outside play areas are approximately 7500 sq m. The outside play areas are divided into 8 zones which includes a roof garden.

5. Has the new name been agreed?

Please see Q1

6. Are there extra staffing due in classes?

It is currently envisaged that all Teachers and Teaching Support staff on permanent contracts will work at the Camelot site from September 1st 2023. It is anticipated that if the numbers increase as planned and remain high, the school's budget will increase too and allow for further recruitment.

7. Will there be more staff?

Once the pupil numbers have been established from September 1st 2023 for the amalgamation, staffing requirements will be evaluated so that the needs of all pupils are met.

Answers provided to questions asked from meetings across Thursday 23rd February 2023

8. Why is the school (Cobourg) closing, not Camelot?

The site is closing at Cobourg but the pupils will be amalgamating with Camelot's. Camelot is a good school (Ofsted January 2018) and the site has the capacity to accommodate the anticipated numbers of pupils (this is not the case for the Cobourg site).

9. Have you seen this amalgamation work in similar situations?

There is a long history of successful school partnerships working in Southwark and the strategy is being promoted with other schools. However, the circumstances now with falling rolls and financial difficulties means that amalgamations are a way of securing the future of both of the school communities.

10. How would the amalgamated school work in the summer term, if agreed as a plan, to ensure a smooth transition?

The leadership team, with support from the local authority, will ensure that there is a transition plan that enables the children and families at both schools are able to see what the new amalgamated school would like and how it will operate. There will already have been visits, taster sessions, meet and greet sessions, see the facilities sessions, experience learning sessions, have lunches, see the toilets, playgrounds, classes, halls and all the other places that are important to you all.

We will follow the principles of the best transition projects that are in place at secondary schools where induction for their new pupils is best. The LA will support with this.

11. How will I know if the school I move to will be subject to future changes?

Decisions from the Southwark Council 'Keeping Education Strong' strategy and review of schools will be shared in due course after those schools have been informed.

12. Could the process be de-railed?

At any point, as we have seen with previous processes, the amalgamation could be stopped from happening.

13. What happens if process doesn't get completed by 1st September 2023?

The statutory process being followed allows for completion in 2023. It is possible to complete the process on another date but the proposal is based upon September 2023 being the best, most appropriate start date.

14. Are there viable alternatives for Cobourg's pupils?

The proposal is amalgamation as Cobourg pupils could be accommodated on a new site as a whole school group rather than dispersed to many schools if the school closed for example. With amalgamation, whole friendship groups, classes and year groups could transfer and remain together rather than possibly break up.

15. Could pupils go to their closet, local schools?

With amalgamation, Cobourg children are guaranteed a place at the Camelot site and school. If a family decides not to transfer, they can seek an alternative place by using the usual admissions process in Southwark. Places cannot be guaranteed to Cobourg children at other schools or held for them.